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Sen. Kuipers announces new Ottawa County development supported by state renaissance zone

LANSING – Ottawa County will see new development and job creation after state approval of a an Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone that allows the expansion of Leprino Foods Co. in Allendale Township, announced Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, today.

Leprino Food plans an 80,000-square-foot expansion to their cheese production facility. The project is expected to cost \$85 million and create 53 jobs. The project won approval from the State Administrative Board this week.

“In these difficult economic times, I’m pleased to see the state is offering tax incentives to an important local employer to keep them here in Michigan,” Kuipers said.

Michigan leaders created Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zones to encourage the state’s agriculture industry, which employs 500,000 people. The zones, like original Renaissance Zones, are exempt from all state and local taxes for qualified agriculture processors who want to expand or begin operations in Michigan. The purpose of the zones is to keep the state’s raw commodities in the state and help state farmers.

Leprino Food is the largest U.S. exporter of whey products and the largest producer of mozzarella cheese.

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